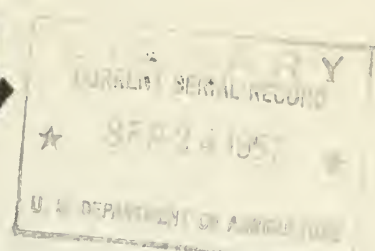


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1957

VOLUME 75

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NUMBER 11

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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CANADIAN TOBACCO ESTIMATE FOR
1957 REVISED DOWNWARD

The Canadian flue-cured crop for this year is now estimated at approximately 130 to 135 million pounds, compared with 157.5 million in 1956, even though the planted area was increased from 118,000 acres in 1956 to 128,000 in 1957. The current estimate of production is about 18 percent less than the earlier 1957 estimate of 165 million pounds. The reduction is due primarily to unfavorable weather and "blight". The leaf is thinner than normal and will not be as heavy as expected earlier due to the unusually heavy rainfall, particularly in June and July.

In addition, about 8 to 10 million pounds was recently destroyed by hail in the area between Tillsonburg and Delhi, Ontario. Blight from an unknown cause damaged or destroyed perhaps 6 to 8 million pounds in the area south of Tillsonburg. Frost in late August destroyed limited quantities in the Joilette area of Quebec Province. Color of the first 3 primings appears to be good, but due to the unusually heavy rainfall, the leaf is thinner than normal in the most important producing areas, but body appears to be good in the Port Hope-Bowmanville area of Ontario where the rainfall was not excessive.

Burley production is estimated at 8.5 to 9 million pounds from 6,500 acres. However, because of the unusually heavy rainfall in southern Ontario, much of the leaf is thin. Before the 1957 crop was transplanted, a goal of 10 million pounds was set for this season. There is emphasis on shifting to the production of a cigarette-type Burley and over 90 percent of production is of the Burley-1 variety.

The production of dark tobaccos (mainly cigar and pipe with about 300 acres for snuff) is expected to be about 5 million pounds or perhaps less - - the lowest in many years. Quality of cigar leaf in the St. Cesaire, Quebec area is expected to be about average (1 million pounds), but that in the St. Jacques, Quebec area is below normal due to the late planting season and damage by frost in the latter part of August.

Auction Sales

Work is now underway in shifting the selling of flue-cured in Ontario (which accounts for about 95 percent of total Canadian production of flue-cured) to an auction system from direct sales at the farm through bargaining between the farmer and buyer. The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, which was recently formed, plans to build and operate 3 auction warehouses located at Aylmer, Tillsonburg, and Delhi, all in Ontario. They plan to use the Dutch-clock auction system which is now used in the selling of cheese and some calves in Canada rather than selling by auctioneer as in the United States.

The production control and marketing schemes of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board have been approved under the Farm Products Marketing Acts of both the Ontario Provincial, and the Dominion, Departments of Agriculture. The former Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Board was composed of both grower and buyer representatives, whereas, the present board is made up entirely of growers.

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board hopes to conduct sales from the latter part of October until March. However, this year it may be very difficult to initiate sales by the end of October as construction work on the warehouses has just been started.

AUSTRIAN OUTPUT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The manufacture of tobacco products in Austria during the first half of 1957 was at a slightly higher rate than during 1956. Output of cigarettes during January-June 1957 was 4.0 billion pieces, and continued the rise that has been evident since 1954. Output of cigars also increased during the first 6 months of 1957. The monthly output averaged slightly more than 7 million pieces during 1956. However, during the January-June 1957 period, monthly production of cigars averaged nearly 9 million pieces.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: Austria, output, calendar years 1953-1956 January-June 1957

Tobacco Products	Calendar Years				January-June 1957
	1953	1954	1955	1956	
Cigarettes (Million pieces)	7,104	6,408	7,212	7,944	4,017
Cigars (Million pieces)....	75	78	79	89	52
Other (1,000 pounds).....	3,091	3,072	2,803	2,667	1,629

Source: Osterreichischen Statistischen Zentralant, July 1957.

NEW COLOMBIAN TARIFF ON CIGARETTE IMPORTS

Cigarette imports into Colombia, which had been prohibited for several months, were again licensed for import beginning in July 1957. However, cigarette importers must now pay an additional tariff equivalent to about 6.7 U. S. cents per pack of 20 cigarettes. Proceeds of the tariff will be used to develop the domestic tobacco industry. Distributors indicate that the new tariff will not require a substantial price increase. In view of the popularity of foreign cigarettes, especially American brands, it is probable that there will be some increase in prices.

SWISS IMPORTS OF CIGARETTE TOBACCO CONTINUE HIGHER

Duty-paid imports of cigarette leaf into Switzerland during January-June 1957 indicate that Swiss cigarette production is continuing to increase. Imports of tobacco for manufacture into cigarettes and "roll-your-own" cigarette tobacco during the first half of 1957 was 8.2 million pounds compared with 7.6 million for the first half of 1956. Continued usings of cigarette leaf at this rate will provide a considerable increase in output above the 8.7 billion cigarettes manufactured in 1956.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Switzerland, duty-paid imports for use in specific products; 1955, 1956 and January-June 1956 and 1957

Product	: Calendar	: Calendar	: January-June	
			1956	1957
	: 1955	: 1956	: 1956	: 1957
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>
	:	:	:	:
Cigarettes and	:	:	:	:
cigarette	:	:	:	:
tobacco.....	: 16,364	: 16,726	: 7,607	: 8,183
Other.....	: 10,502	: 10,076	: 5,025	: 4,744
	:	:	:	:
Total.....	: 26,866	: 26,802	: 12,632	: 12,927

Source: Statistique Mensuelle du Commerce Extérieur de La Suisse, Juin 1957.

DARK TOBACCO FILTER CIGARETTES WELL RECEIVED IN VENEZUELA

Venezuelan cigarette manufacturers recently introduced filter tip cigarettes made of dark tobaccos. Enthusiastic consumer acceptance has sharply increased sales of these brands at the expense of domestically-manufactured American-type filter cigarettes.

This would normally be profitable to manufacturers as dark tobaccos cost about one-half as much as domestic flue-cured. Stocks of dark tobacco are very low and there is also a shortage of seed.

DANISH CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Consumption of cigarettes in Denmark rose to 2.1 billion pieces in the first 6 months of 1957, compared with 2.0 billion during the corresponding period of 1956. Consumption of cigars and cigarillos in the first quarter of 1957 was about the same as a year earlier, while use of smoking declined from 1.6 to 1.5 million pounds.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: Denmark, consumption as indicated by tax-paid withdrawals, 1956 and first half of 1957, by calendar quarters

Tobacco Products	1956				Total 1956	1957	
	First	Second	Third	Fourth		First	Second
Cigarettes (million pieces):	961	1,022	917	975	3,875	1,061	1,081
Cigars and cigarillos (million pieces):	191	207	203	240	841	191	N. A.
Smoking tobacco (1,000 pounds):	1,565	1,556	1,230	1,303	5,654	1,486	N. A.

Source: Statistiske Efterretninger - Danmark Statistik, 1. Halver 1957

U.S.S.R. RENEWING PURCHASES OF CANADIAN WHEAT

The Soviet Union has begun purchases of Canadian wheat for the second year of its 3-year trade agreement with Canada signed on February 29, 1956. Under that agreement, the U.S.S.R. agreed to purchase 1.2 to 1.5 million metric tons (44 to 55 million bushels) of wheat from Canada during the 3-year period ending in February, 1959.

There is no indication as yet relative to the quantities actually purchased. The agreement provided, that the purchases are to be in annual amounts of between 400,000 and 500,000 metric tons (15 to 18 million bushels). However, purchases in the second and third years were to be determined on the basis of the volume of Soviet goods purchased by Canada. The agreement also provided that the purchases were to be made at the prices and on the terms at which the Canadian Wheat Board is making sales to its major customers at such times as the Soviet purchases take place.

Last year, the Soviet Union made its purchases from the Wheat Board in one lump amount and shipments were made from the West Coast during the spring and early summer months. Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures for 1956-57 (July-June) show that Canadian exports of wheat to the U.S.S.R. that year amounted to 4,127,000 bushels compared with 10,725,000 bushels in 1955-56.

The several cargoes recently purchased by the U.S.S.R. consisted of grades 3 and 4 and were made f.o.b. Vancouver. The first shipment will be made in November when two cargoes are booked for delivery. It is expected that the entire purchase for the year will again be shipped from the West Coast, with most of it going to Vladivostok. Last year, the bulk of the shipments was carried in Soviet ships.

INDIA ESTABLISHES 3 WHEAT ZONES FOR REGULATING WHEAT MOVEMENT

The Government of India has created 3 wheat zones. These are the States of (1) Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi; (2) Uttar Pradesh; and (3) Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay (excluding the city of Bombay).

The effect of this zonal arrangement will be free and unrestricted movement of wheat and wheat products within a zone, but export from and import into the zone will not be permissible, except under a permit issued by the State Governments concerned. Also, it is permissible to ship certain wheat products from these Zones to States in South India.

With the creation of these zones the existing cordon around Delhi will be withdrawn, and wheat from Punjab will start flowing into Delhi without restriction.

Cordons around Bombay and Calcutta cities will, however, continue, and the existing restrictions on the movement of wheat from and to these cities will remain unaffected, as the Government of India will continue to meet the entire requirements of these cities from imports.

The important wheat consuming but deficit producing State of Bihar can no longer obtain wheat from the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. However, the Government of India has accepted full responsibility for feeding Bihar from imported stocks, and steps have already been taken to accelerate the movement of wheat to Bihar from port towns.

CHILE'S 1957 WHEAT IMPORTS PLACED AT 309,000 TONS

The Chilean Government's wheat import program for the current (1957) calendar year provides for the importation of a total of 309,000 metric tons. Of that total, 109,000 tons are scheduled for importation from the United States and 200,000 tons from Argentina. During calendar 1956, when the country's wheat imports totaled 245,000 tons, the United States supplied 133,000 tons and Argentina 112,000 tons,

Chile's January 1, 1957 wheat carryin of 124,500 tons plus the crop of 1,003,286 tons and the scheduled imports of 309,000 tons, indicates a total supply of 1,436,786 tons for the 1957 (January-December) marketing season. Imports reach the planned level, year-end (December 31, 1957) carryover stocks will total 188,786 tons, since consumption requirements are estimated at 1,248,000 tons. Corresponding figures for 1956 follow: beginning stocks, 48,858 tons; production, 1,047,738 tons; imports 245,000 tons; consumption, 1,217,196 tons; and year-end stocks, 124,500 tons.

Chile's trade agreement of May 28, 1957 with Argentina provides for the importation of 200,000 tons of Argentine wheat annually, with an option for an additional 100,000 tons if available. Half of the shipments must be made in Argentine and half in Chilean ships. However, Argentina may have difficulty in delivering even the 200,000 tons. Of the 200,000 tons contracted for this year (1957), only 22,000 tons had arrived by the end of July with the quality of the wheat reported as good.

In accordance with the arrival schedule of INACO (Institute Nacional de Comercio), a Government agency which exercises a monopoly over Chilean wheat imports, deliveries by Argentina must be completed by October 31, 1957. Since Argentina has contracted to sell 1,000,000 tons of wheat to Brazil (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 2, 1957), thus reducing supplies available for export to other countries, trade sources believe that Argentina will be unable to meet its commitments to Chile this year. This might result in some increase in purchases from the United States.

Currently, the cost of Argentine wheat delivered to, and unloaded at the port of San Antonio is 4,316.15 Chilean pesos per quintal compared with 4,708.70 pesos per quintal for U. S. Hard Winter No. 2. At the special exchange rate of 603 paper pesos to the U. S. dollar enjoyed by INACO, these prices are equivalent to \$1.95 per bushel for Argentine and \$2.13 per bushel for U. S. wheat.

Chile maintains a guaranteed minimum price for indigenous wheat. The support increases each month from January through July and remains at the July level for the balance of the year. The January 1957 guarantee was 3,950 pesos per quintal (\$1.78 per bushel). Support price for July and the remaining months of 1957 is 4,463 pesos per quintal (\$2.01 per bushel). The Government attempts to keep the support price in line with the price of imported wheat. When the import price (i.e., including cost, ocean freight, handling charges) is higher than the Government's support price for home-grown wheat, the Government absorbs the difference.

FARM MECHANIZATION TOO RAPID IN UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Farmers in the Union of South Africa appear to have mechanized their farms too rapidly. They have strained their credit. Sometimes they did not buy the most suitable machinery and their implement dealers were not prepared to furnish spare parts. They also have had difficulty training farm labor to use the new machinery.

These conclusions were expressed by Sir de Villiers Graaf, Leader of the Opposition, in opening the Annual Congress of Winter Rainfall Areas Agricultural Union. His opinions were reported in the Cape Times.

Farm tractors in the Union have increased from 6,000 in 1937 to 90,000 at present.

POOR BEAN HARVEST IN
NICARAGUA

The first 1957 bean harvest in Nicaragua during August was very poor. It is expected that the crop and accumulated stocks may disappear before the second and larger harvest comes on next December-January. The quantity of stocks has not been reported fully, but in early May there was considerable stocks of domestic beans plus 13,000 bags of small red beans remaining from U. S. exports made to Nicaragua in 1955. These stocks have been moving into neighboring countries in the last several months including nearby Costa Rica.

Costa Rica harvested a good crop in August but inadequate for consumption needs. Stocks in that country were estimated in early May at 60,000 bags including 25,000 bags of U. S. small reds. These stocks were considered adequate for about 60 days' consumption. Costa Rica expected to import 40,000 to 50,000 bags before the August harvest, partially or perhaps wholly, from Nicaragua.

There will also be another larger harvest in Costa Rica in December-January. This second harvest usually contributes about 60 percent of the total annual production in both countries. The bean situation between now and December in these countries will bear watching.

These two countries have imported a total of 180,000 bags of U. S. beans in the last 2 years.

VENEZUELA SUPPORTS CORN PRICE
AT \$2.67 PER BUSHEL

Venezuela's Banco Agricola y Pecuario expects to use Bs 15,000,000 (\$4,500,000) in its corn support price operations this year. The bank expects an above normal crop which it attributes to larger acreage, generally favorable weather, and use of hybrid seed.

Although there are 50 or more support price localities with floors at various elevations, the overall average price at which the bank will purchase indigenous corn will be close to Bs 35 per 100 kilogram (\$2.67 per bushel).

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
BEGIN "SOIL-BANK" PLAN

To check deterioration of soil fertility and to help obviate cereal surpluses, the Department of Agriculture of the Union of South Africa will begin a ley-cropping scheme, similar to the soil-bank plan of the United States. The Union will pay a subsidy on the establishment of grass leys and will also make loans for buying livestock to eat the grass.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO OFFER BUTTER STOCKS

With Canadian butter production continuing at a low level, the Agricultural Prices Support Board announced that it expects to offer present stocks for 63 cents per pound. This price represents the purchase cost (58 cents per pound) plus storage charges. Full details will be released when the seasonal decline in production fails to supply the expected market.

Creamery butter production during the first 7 months of 1957 totaled 167.9 million pounds, 7 percent under the January-July 1956 period. This represents a slight recovery over the first 6 months of 1957 when production was 9 percent under 1956 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 26, 1957). Stocks on August 1, 1957 totaled 74.8 million pounds, 29 percent under the same date last year.

ARGENTINA INCREASES RETAIL MILK PRICE

The expected increase in the Argentine retail price of fluid milk (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 9, 1957) was recently established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The increase, however, was not as large as originally forecast.

According to the announcement the new prices will be in effect in the Greater Buenos Aires area from Sept. 1, 1957 to March 31, 1958. The last price increase was reported in the June 25, 1956 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets. Bottled pasteurized milk, sold in stores, rose from 8.68 to 9.47 cents per quart, while the same milk delivered to homes rose from 8.94 to 9.73 cents per quart. Unpasteurized milk, sold in bulk, now retails for 8.06 cents per quart. The previous price for this type of milk is not available.

SWEDEN EXPORTING MORE BUTTER

During the first 6 months of 1957, Swedish butter exports amounted to 22 million pounds and were almost double the quantity shipped in the same period for 1956. Deliveries to several Western European countries were considerably heavier. Among these were Western Germany which took 9.5 million pounds compared with 2.5 million pounds in 1956; the United Kingdom, 4.2 million pounds (291,000 pounds); and Switzerland, 2.4 million pounds (1.8 million pounds). Sweden also shipped 4.7 million pounds to Poland in January-June, 1957. No shipments were made to this market in 1956.

THAILAND IMPOSES
RICE EXPORT QUOTAS

Rice exports from Thailand during the last 6 months of 1957 are limited to 530,000 metric tons, according to an August 19, 1957 announcement by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Exports of glutinous and broken glutinous rice are excluded. This quantity plus the January-June exports of 870,000 tons (estimate of Customs Department) holds the total for the year to the previously announced target of 1,400,000 metric tons. Exports on a government-to-government basis are included in the above quotas.

Exporters were granted individual July-December quotas for 30 percent of their respective January-June exports. Shipments from July 1 to August 19 are included in this 30 percent of first-semester exports.

This limitation of exports is designed to prevent the development of a domestic rice shortage and price rise before harvesting of the 1957-58 crop, which will be delayed at least a month by late rains. It follows a ban of August 2, imposed for the same purpose, on exports of 25/28 percent broken and lower qualities of rice.

The 1957-58 rice crop in northeast Thailand is reported to be from 10 to 15 percent lower than last year because of insufficient rains. Crop prospects in the north and in the central plains, however, are reported as good. It is in the latter area that rice is raised for export.

MEXICO EXPECTS TO HARVEST
RECORD RICE CROP

Mexico's rice harvest of 1957-58 (August-February) is expected to be 10 percent larger than last year's previous record crop. Production is forecast at 595 million pounds of rough rice (385 million pounds milled) compared with 540 million pounds (351 million pounds) in 1956-57. Rice acreage is estimated at 311,000 acres compared with 284,000 acres in the year before.

Rice exports during the January-June, 1957 period totaled 4,356 metric tons (9,603,000 pounds) compared with 907 tons (2 million pounds) in the like period of 1956. January-June, 1957 exports were the largest in 7 years.

GUATEMALA LIFTS BAN ON
BUTTER IMPORTS

The restriction on butter imports into Guatemala, in effect since January, 1957, has expired, according to a recent announcement by the Ministry of Economy. Since present domestic supplies are only moderately large, no further ban on imports is necessary at this time.

MALAYA SEEKS SOURCES FOR RICE IMPORTS

Malaya is inquiring about rice for import from different foreign sources. This apparently results from recent price advances and Thailand's decision to limit rice exports to 530,000 metric tons in the last half of 1957. Though the immediate stock position is satisfactory, it is not presently known where rice can be obtained for replacement.

The Federation Government has contracted with Burmese and Thai Governments for 30,000 and 20,000 tons, respectively, of rice for delivery in 1957. The Thai contract was made early this year at lower prices than those now being received by Thailand.

RICE (MILLED): Malayan imports, January-June, 1957
with comparisons

Country of origin	1953	1954	1955	1956	January-June 1/	
					1956	1957
	Million pounds					
Thailand.....	856	675	823	927	474	460
Burma.....	260	16	330	332	140	51
India.....	0	2/	22	12	12	0
Indochina, States of..	88	16	12	0	0	6
Pakistan.....	2/	1	18	7	7	0
Mainland China.....	2/	0	2	24	0	55
Other countries.....	1	2/	2/	2	1	2/
Total.....	1,205	708	1,207	1,304	634	572

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from official sources.

MOROCCO'S 1957 GRAIN
PRODUCTION LOW

A serious drought in Morocco reduced the 1957 grain crop to less than half a normal outturn, according to recent reports. Grain acreage was about 70 percent of the 1952-55 average, with yields generally much lower than average. The reduced acreage was caused by severe drought from October to April. The drought affected a large part of the country with the southern areas hit the hardest.

Wheat production is estimated at 23.9 million bushels, compared with 38.5 million in 1956 and the 1952-55 average of 37.8 million. The current crop is made up of 7.6 million bushels of soft wheat and 16.3 million of hard wheat, showing that soft wheat was reduced more than hard. The quality of both soft and hard wheat was reported good except for some rust damage in the vicinity of Meknes and Rabat.

Of the important grains, barley was the most affected by the drought. This year's estimated harvest of 21.8 million bushels is less than a third of the 1956 crop of 72.3 million and the 1952-55 average of 74.9 million bushels.

Oats production of 550,000 bushels for the current season compares with 1.6 million a year ago and the 3.4 million bushel average for 1952-55. The spring-planted corn crop has not been reduced by the drought and the forecast for that crop approaches 12 million bushels, a record for recent years. Production of millet and sorghums is sharply below average.

IRAQ DATE GROWERS MAY RECEIVE ADDITIONAL 1957 PAYMENT FOR CROP

Directors of the Iraq Date Association and the Iraq Date Trading Company have agreed to an additional payment of approximately \$4.55 per ton to growers for the 1957 date crop. The proposed additional payment will have to be approved by the Council of Ministers. The extra payment is classified as reimbursement for "cleaning expense."

The permitted monopoly price to growers, including the "cleaning expense" item, for commercial date varieties, would then be:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Price per pound</u>
Hallawi	1.9 cents
Hadrawi	1.7 "
Sayer	1.6 "
Zahidl	1.4 "

Hallawi dates are said to be bringing currently from 2.45 to 2.50 cents per pound in the Basra open market. The date monopoly is understandably concerned over its ability to fill orders because of this difference between the unofficial price and the top permitted monopoly price.

FRENCH GLACE CHERRY FORECAST UNCHANGED

The outlook for 1957 French glace cherry production continues unchanged, at 16,500 short tons, a volume slightly above 1956 production. Approximately 3,700 tons of the French bigareaux cherry crop, estimated at 12,000 short tons, have been given special spray treatment and are expected to qualify for marketing in the United States as candied cherries.

According to trade reports, exports of glace cherries during calendar year 1957 will be approximately the same as for the preceding year. The United Kingdom and the United States are the principal purchasers of French glace cherries. French exports of "sugar-candied fruit, peels, and parts of plants," under which French Customs records glace cherries, amounted to 12,856 tons during the 1956 calendar year.

Prices, c.i.f. United States port, reportedly vary from \$29 to \$33 per cwt., according to quality and port of arrival. This is the same price range that prevailed during the previous marketing season. Partial devaluation of the franc, however, has increased exporters' returns from 350 to 420 francs per dollar.

RHODESIAS' INCREASED AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS IN 1956

The Federation of Rhodesias and Nyasaland increased the volume of its agricultural imports in 1956, according to Annual Statement of External Trade 1956.

Tallow imports increased to 16,197,000 pounds compared with 9,458,000 pounds in 1955. The United States furnished 7,645,000 pounds and Australia and New Zealand 6,174,000 and 1,423,000 pounds, respectively. Skimmed milk increased from 441,000 pounds to 1,673,000 pounds and full cream milk powder from 2,003,000 pounds to 2,610,000 pounds. Cotton rose from 5,312,000 pounds to 6,044,000 pounds with the United States furnishing 1,578,000 pounds.

Infants' foods increased from 835,000 pounds to 935,000 pounds, of which the United States furnished 42,000 pounds. Imports of sausage casings were 128,000 pounds, including 66,000 pounds supplied by the United States.

The United States bought only 7.3 percent of the Federation's exports by value compared with 13.1 percent in 1955, and furnished 5.9 percent of the imports compared with 4.8 percent in 1955. The Federation continued to have a favorable visible trade balance, but it was reduced substantially under previous years because of increased imports--capital goods in particular.

U. K. LARD PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO RISE

Lard production in the United Kingdom, one of the most important markets for U. S. lard exports, is expected to rise next year because of increased hog slaughter. During the first half of 1957, the United States exported about 88.9 million pounds of lard to the United Kingdom, or 30.2 percent of our total exports. This compares with 80.6 million pounds during the same period in 1956.

Numbers of all types of livestock on farms in the United Kingdom increased from June 1956 to June 1957, according to latest reports. Numbers of bred sows and gilts both increased, indicating that farmers expect to increase hog production during the second half of 1957 and in 1958. This is contrary to the desire of the British Government which considers hog numbers excessive at present, and which has adjusted subsidy payments to induce farmers to reduce production. The effect of these changes and of reduced prices of imported pork during 1957 is expected to result in a reduction in bred sows before the end of 1958.

UNITED KINGDOM: Livestock on farms, June 1953-57

Type	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>
Cattle.....	10,444	10,718	10,668	10,907	10,911
Sheep.....	22,455	22,873	22,949	23,594	24,886
Hogs	5,165	6,251	5,843	5,474	5,966
Bred Sows..	699	814	683	685	742

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food.

CUBAN MEAT PRODUCTION RISES

Estimated meat production in Cuba during the first half of 1957 rose 9 percent over the same period in 1956. The largest increase was in the production of beef.

The large supply of slaughter cattle throughout the island was attributed to abundant rainfall and a good supply of forage. For the first time in several years, seasonal beef shortages did not appear during the second quarter.

Although the supply of cattle was ample to meet consumption requirements, there was considerable pressure on prices. Many producers were reported to be receiving above the official rate of \$12.50 per 100 pounds.

CUBA: Estimated Livestock slaughter and meat production,
January-June 1956-57

Year	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Goats	Meat Produced <u>1/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Million pounds</u>
1956...	445	395	18	16	219.8
1957...	481	409	18	18	239.0

1/ Carcass weight.

Due to the increase in domestic pork production and to higher prices for U. S. pork, Cuban pork imports from the United States dropped slightly during the first half of 1957. Present indications are that Cuban imports will drop even more during the second half of 1957. Cuba is the United States' largest market for pork and lard.

SOUTH AFRICAN CATTLE SLAUGHTER DROPS

Commercial cattle slaughter in the Union of South Africa during the first 6 months of 1957 dropped 11 percent from the same period in 1956. The hog kill also declined, while sheep slaughter rose slightly. Most of the drop in cattle slaughter was due to reduced imports of cattle from neighboring territories. During the first half of 1957, 95,280 head were imported, a decrease of 17,990 head from the same period in 1956.

A shortage of beef and pork is expected during the last half of 1957 due to a serious foot-and-mouth disease outbreak.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Commercial Livestock slaughter, January- June 1955-57

Year	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Hogs
	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>
1955.....	629,600	67,700	1,995,300	408,900
1956.....	647,900	59,000	1,854,700	432,300
1957.....	577,600	50,400	2,007,800	290,700

ARGENTINA REMOVES EXPORT TAX ON SALTED MUTTON

In line with its previously announced policy (see Foreign Crops and Markets, June 10, 1957) the Argentina Central Bank has announced that the 15 percent export tax on salted mutton has been removed as of July 30, 1957.

VENEZUELAN COFFEE GROWERS PROPOSE PRODUCTION AIDS

The Coffee Growers Association of Venezuela recently completed a 2-day meeting in which representatives made suggestions to aid the producers. Some delegates wanted a coffee bank, with the capital being supplied by growers. There was full support for a resolution urging the Government increase the capital of the Banco Agricola y Pecuario with the increase ear-marked for long-term loans to coffee growers.

Another proposal made at the meeting was that Robusta coffee not be grown in Venezuela. Some plantings of Robusta have been made, and it is feared that this species will be mixed with Arabica and reduce prices.

MALAYA'S PALM OIL
PRODUCTION UP

Malaya's production of palm oil during the first 6 months of 1957 is estimated at 29,450 short tons, a slight increase from the same period in 1956. Trade sources expect that palm oil production in the last half of 1957 will be 5 to 10 percent higher than in the first half.

Palm kernel production in the first 6 months of 1957, estimated at 7,300 tons, declined slightly from the comparable period in 1956.

Exports of palm oil from Malaya in January-June 1957, totaling 30,449 short tons, were slightly below shipments in the first half of 1956. Increased freight rates sharply reduced the volume of exports to Canada. Palm kernel exports of 8,963 tons, on the other hand, were one-fourth higher than in the corresponding period of 1956.

Malayan palm oil is sold on a monthly average pool price basis. The monthly average pool price declined from M\$46.11 per picul (\$228.24 per short ton) in the first quarter of 1957 to M\$44.78 (\$221.66) in the second quarter.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS: Malaya, exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1956, and January-June 1956 and 1957

Country	Palm oil				Palm kernels			
	Average:	1956	January-June		Average:	1956	January-June	
	1935-39	1/	1956	1957	1935-39	1/	1956	1957
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Canada.....	9,598	12,636	6,154	2,894	--	--	--	--
Denmark.....	--	--	--	--	226	3,489	896	728
France.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	392
West Germany..	--	--	--	--	1,410	773	123	56
Greece.....	--	--	--	--	--	476	112	480
Ireland.....	--	--	--	--	--	224	224	--
Italy.....	--	--	--	--	134	28	28	--
Netherlands...	--	--	--	--	1,304	9,743	5,401	3,192
United Kingdom:	23,270	34,167	16,519	13,173	2,115	717	373	1,910
India.....	908	18,540	7,869	9,017	--	28	--	--
Japan.....	922	--	--	--	46	--	--	1,176
Other.....	12,662	271	110	5,365	2,897	--	--	1,029
Total....	47,360	65,614	30,652	30,449	8,132	15,478	7,157	8,963

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

DANISH TABLE POTATOES SOLD IN ARGENTINA

The Danish Potato Export Committee has contracted to ship 1,000 tons of Bintje table potatoes to Argentina. While the price was not announced, it is estimated that Danish growers will receive about \$1 per hundredweight.

WEST GERMAN GRAPE IMPORTS INCREASE

Imports of table grapes in West Germany are increasing since the import duties have been reduced. Most of the current imports are from Spain.

FRANCE ANNOUNCES QUOTA FOR SOUTH AFRICAN ORANGES

The French Journal Official announced on September 2, 1957 that a quota for an unspecified quantity had been issued for South African oranges.

SWITZERLAND LOWERED DUTY FOR FRUIT

The Swiss Government has abolished the duty of 2 francs for 220 pounds of apples and pears for processing. Also, the duty on stone fruits has been lowered from 35 to 5 francs per 220 pounds of fruit.

MALAYA'S COPRA EXPORTS IN FIRST HALF, 1957
EXCEED ANNUAL TOTAL FOR 1956

Malaya's copra exports of 47,564 long tons in the first 6 months of 1957 were nearly 4 times those of the first half of 1956 and exceeded total shipments for 1956 by over 8,000 tons. India, the principal buyer, accounted for well over 90 percent.

Malayan imports of copra during January-June 1957 were 81,136 tons, an increase of over one-half from the first 6 months of 1956. Supplies from Indonesia and North Borneo increased sharply.

Commercial copra production in the first half of 1957 is estimated at 59,300 tons, about 12 percent below the corresponding period of 1956. The decrease is reportedly due to dry weather in late 1956 and early 1957 and the shift by some estates to oil palm production. Trade sources indicate that production for the year may be 10 to 15 percent below that of 1956.

Malayan exports of coconut oil in the first half of 1957 amounted to 45,740 long tons, a slight decrease from the comparable period of 1956.

Copra wholesale prices in Singapore during the second quarter of 1957 averaged M\$26.38 per picul (\$146.25 per long ton) for fair mixed quality against an average of M\$28.33 (\$157.06) for the first quarter. Coconut oil wholesale prices in Singapore averaged M\$47.23 per picul (\$261.84 per long ton) f.o.b. Singapore in the January-March quarter. April-June prices were slightly lower, averaging M\$44.65 (\$247.54).

TABLE 1.--COPRA: Malaya, exports and imports, average 1935-39, annual 1955 and 1956, January-June 1956 and 1957

Country	Average	1955	1956 1/	January-June	
	1935-39			1956	1957 1/
	Long	Long	Long	Long	Long
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Exports:					
Denmark.....	2,050:	2,600:	1,645:	600:	--
France.....	8,578:	1,948:	680:	530:	--
Italy.....	11,322:	150:	950:	150:	--
Netherlands.....	28,956:	12,695:	4,100:	1,250:	--
Norway.....	4,703:	1,375:	525:	--:	--
Poland.....	3,358:	--:	1,900:	800:	400
Spain.....	--:	9,917:	4,200:	3,650:	200
Sweden.....	1,850:	1,600:	404:	--:	--
United Kingdom.....	57,750:	--:	--:	--:	--
West Germany.....	2/46,384:	3,898:	1,450:	700:	--
Other Europe.....	2,825:	3/1,800:	1,350:	4/1,250:	--
India.....	535:	1,247:	18,210:	582:	44,170
Japan.....	2,483:	--:	--:	--:	457
Other Asia.....	959:	4,826:	2,819:	658:	1,737
Other countries.....	19,938:	363:	1,100:	50:	600
Total.....	191,691:	42,419:	39,333:	10,220:	47,564
Imports:					
British possessions.....	10,617:	1,966:	4,078:	2,181:	6,993
Indonesia.....	105,500:	113,577:	116,875:	49,481:	73,662
Other countries.....	2,134:	1,952:	928:	483:	481
Total.....	118,251:	117,495:	121,881:	52,145:	81,136

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ All to Finland. 4/ 1,000 tons to Finland and 250 tons to Czechoslovakia.

Compiled from official sources.

TABLE 2.--COCONUT OIL: Malaya, exports and imports, average 1935-39, annual 1955 and 1956, and January-June 1956 and 1957

Country	Average	1955	1956 1/	January-June	
	1935-39			1956	1957 1/
	Long	Long	Long	Long	Long
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Exports:					
France.....	100:	1,938:	1,442:	1,027:	1,509
Italy.....	20:	10,049:	9,567:	2,820:	8,410
Netherlands.....	822:	10,663:	24,145:	6,896:	4,577
Sweden.....	185:	2,007:	3,003:	1,415:	834
United Kingdom.....	8,857:	15,343:	14,907:	10,719:	1,815
West Germany.....	2/100:	8,971:	11,388:	2,918:	4,257
Other Europe.....	190:	3/1,134:	4/11,801:	5/7,602:	6/6,127
Burma.....	3,908:	6,481:	4,945:	2,469:	8,157
China.....	2,028:	14,974:	500:	500:	--
Formosa.....	--:	787:	299:	9:	601
Hong Kong.....	1,391:	1,434:	1,425:	874:	548
India.....	22,500:	11,559:	10,090:	4,355:	5,032
Indonesia.....	3,119:	231:	235:	125:	125
Pakistan.....	--:	867:	342:	51:	296
Egypt.....	3,295:	926:	1,815:	1,441:	210
Union of South Africa.....	325:	2,676:	5,752:	2,186:	2,055
Other countries.....	269:	1,786:	2,628:	1,132:	1,187
Total.....	47,109:	91,826:	104,284:	46,539:	45,740
Imports:					
British possessions.....	16:	562:	1,145:	245:	348
Indonesia.....	328:	89:	8:	4:	21
Other countries.....	229:	--:	--:	--:	--
Total.....	573:	651:	1,153:	249:	369

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ Includes 595 tons to Yugoslavia. 4/ Includes 9,400 tons to U.S.S.R. and 1,572 tons to Yugoslavia. 5/ Includes 6,900 tons to U.S.S.R. and 202 tons to Yugoslavia. 6/ Includes 2,900 tons to U.S.S.R., 2,301 tons to Yugoslavia and 926 tons to Poland.

Compiled from official sources.

IRAN ANNOUNCES WHEAT SUPPORT PRICES

Support prices under Iran's new wheat price support and marketing policy have been announced by the Grain and Cereals Department of the Ministry of Customs and Monopolies. The new policy, which had been under discussion for some time, provides for the determination of producer prices at which the Government will purchase all wheat offered, and for the sale of wheat by the Government at fixed prices. The farmers are not compelled to sell to the Government and may also sell to millers or other private individuals or firms at the regular market prices. However, they can at all times sell to the Government at the guaranteed floor prices.

The Grain and Cereals Department has announced that the floor prices for 1957 crop wheat under the new policy will be the same as the fixed prices that had previously been announced for Government purchases of wheat of this crop under the old policy. The old policy, which has now been terminated, authorized the Government to purchase up to one-fourth of each year's wheat crop, and it to some extent involved compulsory sales by the farmers to the Government.

The 1957 crop floor prices are 4.5 rials per kilogram (\$1.60 per bushel) at Gorgan, 5.5 rials per kg. (\$1.96 per bushel) in Khuzistan and 5.0 rials per kg. (\$1.78 per bushel) in the rest of the country. The Government's fixed selling price for wheat to any purchaser is 6.0 rials per kg. (\$2.13 per bushel). Taxes and controls applicable to wheat in inter-province trade within the country have also been abolished under the new policy.

U. S. EXPORTED 1.2 MILLION POUNDS GRASS
AND LEGUME SEEDS IN JULY, 1957

Grass and legume seed exports for the first month of the new crop year amounted to approximately 1.2 million pounds. The largest shipment went to the Netherlands, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, in that order.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U. S. exports, July 1957, with comparisons

Kind of Seed	1956	1957
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Alfalfa.....	116	273
Alsike.....	43	21
Other clovers.....	228	325
Fescue.....	441	80
Kentucky bluegrass.....	26	22
Orchard.....	0	5
Redtop.....	24	0
Timothy.....	50	92
Other grasses.....	613	415
Total.....	1,541	1,233

U. S. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN-
EGYPTIAN COTTON UP IN JULY

United States exports of American-Egyptian cotton during July 1957 were 1,853 bales of 500 pounds gross (1,740 running bales). This was an increase of 56 percent over June exports of 1,188 bales, and more than twice as large as exports of 884 bales in July 1956. Exports during the entire 1956-57 season were 61,163 bales of 500 pounds gross (57,906 running bales.) This was nearly three times the 1955-56 total of 21,555 bales. Principal destinations of the American-Egyptian cotton in 1956-57 were the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, and Japan.

Competitive-bid sales for unrestricted use of American-Egyptian cotton from the national stockpile amounted to 1,194 running bales as of September 4, 1957. This cotton is to be charged against the 1957-58 quota of 53,750 bales. The entire stockpile will be sold over a 5-year period beginning August 1, 1957. No sales will be made at reduced prices for export or any other purpose.

COTTON: United States exports of American-Egyptian cotton by
country of destination, annual 1954-56

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)				
Country of destination	Year beginning August 1			
	1954	1955	1956	
Austria.....	0	0	1,322	
Belgium.....	0	0	159	
France.....	103	640	7,150	
Germany, West.....	0	169	456	
Ireland.....	0	0	210	
Italy.....	0	233	5,749	
Netherlands.....	0	0	34	
Portugal.....	0	0	796	
Spain.....	0	15,002	15,539	
Sweden.....	0	3	211	
Switzerland.....	0	272	1,325	
Trieste.....	0	0	369	
United Kingdom.....	93	96	21,894	
Yugoslavia.....	0	1,315	398	
Israel.....	240	(1/)	0	
India.....	0	603	952	
Japan.....	0	21	4,545	
Pakistan.....	0	3,156	0	
Colombia.....	0	0	51	
Other countries.....	0	45	3	
Total 500-lb. bales.....	436	21,555	61,163	
Total running bales.....	450	20,294	57,906	

1/ Less than 1 bale.

NETHERLANDS IMPORTS
MORE U. S. COTTON

Imports of United States cotton by the Netherlands increased sharply during August-April 1956-57. They were 152,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 51 percent of the total, compared with 6,000 bales and 2 percent a year earlier. Total cotton imports during August-April 1956-57 were 298,000 bales, 13 percent higher than total imports of 264,000 bales in August-April 1955-56.

Quantities imported from other major sources in the current period, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 74,000 bales (148,000); Belgian Congo 27,000 (25,000); Peru 11,000 (17,000); Egypt 9,000 (16,000); Brazil 8,000 (3,000); and Nicaragua 5,000 (21,000).

Cotton consumption in the Netherlands is increasing very slightly. Consumption during August-April 1956-57 was estimated at 255,000 bales compared with 251,000 bales in the same period last season. Mills are working at full capacity, but some labor shortages and uncertainty about the Common Market Project have tended to discourage spinners from enlarging their spinning capacity.

Cotton stocks on April 13, 1957, were reported at 111,000 bales compared with 80,000 bales on August 1, 1957. Prices of most growths of cotton have been highly competitive this year. Dutch spinners generally approve the United States export program, but trade and industry expect intensified competition next season, both on prices and quality.

U. S. 1956-57 COTTON EXPORTS
HIGHEST SINCE 1933-34

United States exports of cotton (all types) during August-July 1956-57 were 7,912,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (7,593,000 running bales). This was the highest level attained since 1933-34 when exports were 7,964,000 bales. Exports in most of the intervening years have been much lower, and in 1955-56 were only 2,320,000 bales. Exports in July 1957 were 438,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (418,000 running bales) compared with 140,000 bales in July 1956.

Exports to Japan were more than 1.6 million bales in 1956-57, those to West Germany and the United Kingdom also exceeded 1 million bales. Heavy volume was shown to most European countries, particularly Italy, France and Belgium. Exports to Canada returned to the higher levels maintained prior to last year. Exports to India were the highest since 1951-52.

Total sales of upland cotton under the 1956-57 program for export prior to August 16, 1957 were 7,747,200 running bales. Sales under the 1957-58 program for export between August 16, 1957 and July 31, 1958, as of September 3, 1957, have totaled 3,661,849 running bales.

COTTON: U. S. exports by country of destination, averages 1935-39
and 1945-49, annual 1953-56

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Average		1953	1954	1955	1956
	1935-39	1945-49				
	----- 1,000 bales -----					
Austria.....	0 :1/	36 :	42 :	15 :	18 :	54
Belgium.....	169 :	131 :	68 :	66 :	30 :	337
Denmark.....	33 :	14 :	23 :	21 :	3 :	25
Finland.....	35 :	21 :	10 :	13 :	16 :	33
France.....	662 :	575 :	475 :	416 :	178 :	432
Germany, West.....	511 :	340 :	389 :	350 :	74 :	1,061
Italy.....	442 :	489 :	269 :	249 :	105 :	720
Netherlands.....	107 :	131 :	104 :	95 :	17 :	260
Norway.....	17 :	7 :	14 :	12 :	2/ :	21
Portugal.....	36 :	2/ :	0 :	11 :	5 :	91
Spain.....	108 :	69 :	167 :	197 :	143 :	174
Sweden.....	115 :	12 :	43 :	51 :	10 :	111
Switzerland.....	11 :	26 :	24 :	37 :	14 :	121
United Kingdom.....	1,346 :	488 :	422 :	421 :	153 :	1,049
Yugoslavia.....	17 :	47 :	40 :	103 :	109 :	141
Other Europe.....	3/ 276 :4/	159 :	10 :	9 :	6 :	66
Total Europe.....	3,885 :	2,545 :	2,100 :	2,066 :	881 :	4,696
Canada.....	301 :	275 :	237 :	307 :	75 :	380
Cuba.....	11 :	16 :	20 :	19 :	11 :	31
Israel.....	5/ :	5 :	12 :	20 :	15 :	19
Hong Kong.....	5/ :	35 :	9 :	6 :	45 :	95
India.....	52 :	86 :	161 :	61 :	9 :	301
Indonesia.....	5/ :	5 :	22 :	27 :	15 :	43
Korea, Rep. of.....	5/ :6/	48 :	96 :	170 :	135 :	220
Japan.....	1,142 :	585 :	1,005 :	678 :	873 :	1,588
Philippines, Rep. of.....	2 :	4 :	8 :	8 :	12 :	36
Taiwan (Formosa).....	5/ :	1 :	110 :	120 :	124 :	161
Bolivia.....	4 :	2 :	6 :	5 :	13 :	11
Chile.....	9 :	20 :	20 :	10 :	14 :	74
Colombia.....	20 :	24 :	7 :	2 :	27 :	52
French N. Africa.....	5/ :	4 :	10 :	12 :	6 :	17
Australia.....	9 :	7 :	45 :	52 :	28 :	81
Other countries.....	7/ 154 :8/	403 :	46 :	22 :	37 :9/ 107	
Total 500-lb. bales..	5,589 :	4,065 :	3,914 :	3,585 :	2,320 :	7,912
Total running bales..	5,300 :	3,917 :	3,761 :	3,447 :	2,215 :	7,593

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Czechoslovakia 65, and Poland 180. 4/ Includes Czechoslovakia 57, Greece 21, and Poland 69. 5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Includes China 117, and French Indochina 22. 8/ Includes China 401. 9/ Includes Pakistan 28, Union of South Africa 31, and Uruguay 15.

EGYPT ESTABLISHES NEW SYSTEM FOR COTTON EXPORT PAYMENTS

The Egyptian Government announced a new system of cotton export payments August 27, 1957. Under the new system 70 percent of the cotton value of any variety exported to any country (except Israel) is to be paid for in Egyptian pounds. Payments in Egyptian currency are to be made into the Egyptian-Austrian account, or the Swiss, Dutch or Belgian accounts. The remaining 30 percent is to be paid in dollars, free Swiss francs, multi-lateral Italian lire, or Sterling (into the Special Account "A"), or Deutsche marks. No premiums will be paid by the Egyptian Government on these currencies. The new system will apply to cotton shipped between September 1 and December 31, 1957.

EGYPT TRADES COTTON FOR FRENCH WHEAT

In a recent trade deal between Egypt and France, as reported by the Egyptian press, private firms will exchange LE12 million worth of Egyptian cotton for French wheat and other goods contracted for prior to the Suez crisis. This is equivalent to approximately \$34 million worth of Egyptian cotton which will be available to the French textile industry. Actual loading of the cotton on French ships at Alexandria reportedly began August 23.

WEST GERMANY MAY LOWER DUTY FOR FRUIT

The Lower House (Bundestag) approved a government ordinance for the abolition of ad valorem duties on fruit imports between September 1 and December 31 of this year. The ordinance provides for complete removal of import duties on citrus fruit and reduces those on other fruit. Trade sources expect the Upper House to approve this measure in September.

U. S. JULY-AUGUST WHEAT EXPORTS 24 PERCENT LOWER THAN YEAR AGO

United States exports of wheat and wheat flour during the first 2 months (July-August) of the current 1957-58 marketing season are tentatively estimated at 65.4 million bushels compared with 85.7 million bushels in the corresponding period a year ago. This represents a reduction of approximately 24 percent. The estimated total for the two months includes the official Bureau of Census total for July (see table on page 25) and the Department of Agriculture's estimate for August.

Including estimates for August, based largely on inspections, the quantities in millions of bushels taken by indicated importing countries during the first 2 months (July-August) of the season, compared with the same period a year ago, were as follows: India, 20.8 (2.2); Japan 8.0 (7.9); Poland 3.9 (0); United Kingdom 3.6 (5.4); Brazil, 2.8 (3.9); West Germany, 2.8 (7.8); Turkey, 1.9 (0); Yugoslavia 1.6 (0.5); Israel, 1.2 (2.0); Cuba, 1.2 (1.0); Colombia, 1.0 (1.0); Netherlands 0.7 (6.6); Belgium, 0.3 (4.3); and Korea 0.3 (2.8).

WHEAT AND FLOUR: United States exports by country of destination,
July 1956 and July 1957

Destination	July 1956			July 1957		
	Wheat	Flour ^{1/}	Total	Wheat	Flour ^{1/}	Total
	- 1,000 bushels, grain equivalent -					
Western Hemisphere:						
Central America	171	290	461	233	471	704
Cuba	377	205	582	422	373	795
British West Indies :	-	262	262	-	145	145
Colombia	675	2	677	507	1	508
Venezuela	13	488	501	78	775	853
Chile	1,268	1	1,269	-	5	5
Brazil	2,761	2/	2,761	286	2/	286
Others	326	415	741	6	591	597
Total	5,591	1,663	7,254	1,532	2,361	3,893
Europe:						
United Kingdom	3,035	225	3,260	2,724	85	2,809
Netherlands	2,451	44	2,495	435	152	587
Belgium-Luxembourg..	1,872	1	1,873	266	-	266
France	8,791	-	8,791	-	2	2
West Germany	2,542	2/	2,542	1,446	1	1,447
Poland	-	-	-	2,361	-	2,361
Portugal	1,436	7	1,443	-	8	8
Yugoslavia.....	-	-	-	1,574	1	1,575
Others	2,312	43	2,355	1,115	61	1,176
Total	22,439	320	22,759	9,921	310	10,231
Asia:						
Turkey	-	-	-	1,561	-	1,561
Israel	534	2	536	697	2	699
India	1,828	2/	1,828	10,317	8	10,325
Korea	1,161	-	1,161	192	34	226
Japan	3,796	52	3,848	2,462	148	2,610
Others	997	1,285	2,282	787	836	1,623
Total	8,316	1,339	9,655	16,016	1,028	17,044
Others:						
Africa	901	390	1,291	349	710	1,059
Oceania	-	4	4	-	3	3
Unspecified ^{3/}	441	48	489	34	1,207	1,241
Total ^{3/}	1,342	442	1,784	383	1,920	2,303
World total	37,688	3,764	41,452	27,852	5,619	33,471

^{1/} Wholly of United States wheat.

^{2/} Less than 500 bushels.

^{3/} Includes exports for relief or charity which are not included in the Bureau of the Census figures.

SMALLER IRAQI AND IRANIAN
DATE CROPS INDICATED

Smaller date crops than last year are forecast for both Iraq and Iran. This would be the second successive short date crop in Iraq, while in Iran 1957 is the "off-year" in a pattern of alternating large and small date harvests.

Forecast production is also well below average in both countries.

	1950-54 Average	1955	1956	Forecast 1957
	Short	Short	Short	Short
	tons	tons	tons	tons
Iraq.....	1/ 392,000	420,000	280,000	250,000
Iran.....	147,000	110,000	145,000	115,000

1/ Five years: 1950-52, 1954, and 1955.

Production in the Basra area, where Iraqi dates for the United States market are grown, is forecast at 67,000 tons compared with 92,000 tons in 1956 and an average of 144,000 tons.

The reduced harvests in Iraq and Iran are not expected to affect the volume of shipments to the United States which accounts for but a small share of the production in each of these countries.

The quality of new-crop Iraqi dates is reportedly excellent.

The prices set by the Iraq Date Trading Company of 1.7 to 1.9 cents per pound for Hallawis are being exceeded by unofficial prices in the Basra open market ranging as high as 2.5 cents per pound. As a result, the Monopoly expects difficulty in acquiring enough dates to fill its orders. Monopoly prices for other varieties have been 1.5 to 1.7 cents for Hadrawis, 1.4 to 1.6 cents for Sayers, and 1.2 to 1.4 cents for Zahidis.

U.S. MINIMUM APPLE EXPORT GRADE RAISED

Last winter and spring the U.S. apple growers, shippers and importers discussed ways of improving the quality of apples shipped to export markets. As a result of these discussions the minimum quality of dessert fall and winter apples that may be exported after October 11, 1957, must be U.S. No. 1 Cooker grade which provides for apples that are mature and meet all requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade, except for color. Early varieties must continue to meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 early grade.

There were no changes in export grades for pears. Summer, fall and winter dessert pears must meet the requirements of U.S. No. 2 or better grade.

This action was under the authority of the Export Apple and Pear Act.

ARGENTINA DRIES FEWER PRUNES - RAISIN AND
CURRANT PRODUCTION ALSO DOWN SHARPLY

According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 1957 production of dried prunes in Argentina will total 6,200 short tons, or about 6 percent less than the 6,600-ton volume for the previous season. Raisin and current production for 1957, at 4,100 short tons, is only slightly more than a third of the previous season's 11,500-ton total. While the 1957 estimate of prunes dried, exceeds the 1950-54 average by 24 percent, the raisin and current estimate amounts to only 68 percent of that for the same period.

DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, AND CURRANTS: Argentine
production, annual 1953-57, average 1950-54

Item	Average	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	1950-54					Preliminary
	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Prunes	5,000	6,600	2,200	6,800	6,600	6,200
Raisins & Currants...	6,000	7,700	5,500	8,300	11,500	4,100

From 50 to 60 percent of the annual production of prunes is consumed domestically, while from 60 to 70 percent of the Argentine production of raisins and currants is used to supply needs within the country.

DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS AND CURRANTS: Argentine exports by country
of destination, January 1 through June 30, 1957

Country of destination	Dried Prunes	Raisins and Currants
	Short tons	Short tons
Belgium.....	--	12
Bolivia.....	11	21
Brazil.....	996	160
Italy.....	24	--
Paraguay.....	7	15
United Kingdom.....	128	--
Other.....	3	--
Total.....	1,169	208

SWEDEN PERMITS FREE ENTRY OF
PEARS EARLIER THIS YEAR

The Swedish State Agricultural Marketing Board has announced that pears may be freely imported after October 12. Since June 13 imports of pears have been subject to licenses. Last year the date of free listing was November 29.

MEXICAN HONEY 1957 EXPORTS

Mexican exports of honey in 1957 are forecast at 12,000 metric tons (26.5 million pounds) of which approximately 9,000 (19.8 million pounds) have already been shipped.

PHILIPPINE COPRA PRODUCTION AT HIGH LEVEL

Philippine copra production for the first half of 1957, estimated at 629,789 long tons, was nearly 5 percent higher than that of the first 6 months of 1956. Continued high level production is expected for the last half of the year with prospects that total 1957 production may exceed that of 1956 by 5 to 10 percent.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Derived production in Philippine Republic in terms of copra equivalent, average 1947-51, annual 1955 and 1956, January-June 1957

Commodity	: Average 1947-51	: 1955	: 1956 1/	: January-June 1956 1/
	: Long tons	: Long tons	: Long tons	: Long tons
Exports:				
Copra.....	719,606	801,168	964,034	464,455
Coconut oil as copra 2/.....	87,843	111,519	170,101	70,315
Total as copra.....	807,449	912,687	1,134,135	534,770
Domestic utilization:				
Coconut oil as copra 2/.....	89,035	146,889	162,273	95,019
Total production as ccopra 3/:	896,484	1,059,576	1,296,408	629,789

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Copra equivalent computed at 63 percent oil extraction rate. 3/ Excluding coconuts used in the making of home-made oil and native culinary preparations.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

Copra cake and meal production in January-June 1957 totaled 52,907 long tons. Production of desiccated coconut during the first half of 1957 was over 40 percent larger than in the same 1956 period, due to increased foreign demand, particularly in the United States.

Copra exports from the Philippine Republic in the first half of 1957 were 464,455 long tons while coconut oil exported totaled 44,298 tons. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, July 22, 1957, page 21.) For July export data see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 19, 1957, page 30.

Exports of desiccated coconut in the first half of the year were 23,973 tons, an increase of over one-half from the comparable 1956 period. Exports to the United States increased substantially and significant quantities, for the first time in many years, are now entering the European market. Copra cake and meal shipments in January-June totaled 47,617 tons, a slight increase from the same period in 1956.

The recent elimination of the 3-cents per-pound coconut oil processing tax by the United States is likely to cause some increase in exports of coconut oil and copra to the United States and possibly a slight reduction in costs to the end-users.

Significant developments during the second quarter of 1957 were: (1) A decrease in both United States and European freight rates; (2) the active reappearance of barter and granting of a special license for 80,000 tons of copra to a producer association; (3) the entrance of a large European speculator in Philippine copra trading; and (4) the closing of a major Manila copra mill by a strike.

ARGENTINA EXPECTS LARGE FLAXSEED CROP

Argentina's 1957-58 flaxseed crop, now approaching the flowering stage in the north, is expected to be considerably larger than last year's output, although no acreage estimates have been released as yet. Early forecasts by the trade are for a production of approximately 35 million bushels. A crop of this volume would exceed 1956-57 production of 24.4 million bushels by over 40 percent and would be the largest crop since 1947-48 when 35.5 million bushels were harvested.

Sales contracts for linseed oil continue to be made at a good rate. Sales already finalized are generally considered to account for more than the accepted surplus available for export. The total for the month of August alone amounted to 106,000 metric tons.

ITALY CHANGES RATIOS OF IMPORTED OILS AND OILSEEDS TO PURCHASES FROM GOVERNMENT STOCKS

The Italian High Commission for Food has revised the quantities of oil or oilseeds that may be imported in fixed ratio to seed oil purchased from government stocks, effective August 21, 1957. The new ratios (see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 13 for previous ratios) are as follows:

For every quintal (220.5 pounds) of seed oil purchased from Italian government stocks, an importer is entitled to import:

- a. 1 quintal of olive oil (by solvent extraction), or
- b. 4 quintals of olive oil (by pressure extraction), or
- c. 1 quintal of refined sulfur oil, either "A" or "B", or
- d. 1 quintal of edible linseed oil, or
- e. 2 quintals of flaxseed (oil content).

These new ratios represent a considerable decline in quantities of oil or oilseeds that may be imported, eliminating all oilseeds except flaxseed and reducing this to one-fourth the previous level. Also, all seed oil imports are forbidden except edible linseed oil. Olive oil imports were reduced except for refined sulfur oil.

BELGIUM ORDERS INCORPORATION OF ENTIRE 1957 WHEAT CROP AT \$2.54 PER BUSHEL

A Royal Decree published in Moniteur Belge on August 20 orders the incorporation by the country's flour millers of Belgium's entire 1957 wheat crop at an average farm directional price of 470 Belgian Francs per 100 kilos (\$2.54 per bushel). While this is the same as last year's average directional price, it will apply this season to the entire commercial crop instead of to only a part of the crop.

As in former years, observance of the compulsory purchases at specified directional prices will be implemented by such positive measures as compulsory rates of utilization of indigenous wheat in domestic flour milling, State buying of wheat from farmers and control over wheat imports. In previous years, millers had to purchase only a part of the domestic crop at the directional price and were free to purchase the balance of their requirements at world market prices.

The incorporation of the entire 1957 crop may make it necessary for the Government to fix the initial mixing rate at around 60 percent indigenous wheat. This would be the highest starting rate on record in Belgium. Last season, the initial mixing rate was only 30 percent. The rate was increased from time to time during the season, reaching 65 percent on May 5, 1957. Effective July 15, it was reduced to 60 percent.

BELGIUM IMPOSES IMPORT LICENSE TAX ON FEED GRAINS

A Royal Decree published in the official Moniteur Belge on August 19, 1957 established an import license tax on feed grains of 50 Belgian Francs per 100 kilos for rye, barley and oats and 30 BF per 100 kilos for corn. The tax is equivalent to 25 cents per bushel for rye, 14 cents per bushel for oats, 22 cents per bushel for barley and 15 cents per bushel for corn.

The tax, payable at the time of the issuance of an import license, may have an unfavorable impact on U.S. feed grain exports to the Belgian market. Belgium's average imports in metric tons of these grains during the 5-year period ending with 1955-56 (July-June), with imports from the United States shown in parentheses, were as follows: rye, 96,246 (4,769); barley 456,962 (213,607); oats, 98,008 (9,760); and corn, 393,485 (204,637).

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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Status of Cotton Purchase Authorizations Under Title I, Public Law 480. Foreign Agriculture Circular FC 21-57

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